

To slightly modify his words we might say that *Hesperornis* is a Colymboid bird of great size and prodigious swimming power, which, while losing its wings and sternal keel and otherwise somewhat modifying its shoulder-girdle as the faculty of flight degenerated, has retained in its brain case, its palate (?), its mandibles, its vertebrae, its sternum, pelvis, and hind limbs resemblances to existing *Colymbi* that clearly indicate its affinities with these birds; and with these modifications we are quite in accord with Professor Thompson. — F. A. L.

**Townsend on the Birds of the Coast and Islands of Upper and Lower California.\*** — The observations here recorded were made during a cruise of the U. S. Fish Commission steamer 'Albatross' from San Francisco to the Gulf of California, during the winter of 1888-89. The collection of birds gathered by Mr. Townsend numbered 226 specimens, representing 92 species and subspecies, 11 of which are here described as new. The islands at which collections were made are San Clemente, San Nicolas, Santa Barbara, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz, off California, and Guadeloupe, Cerros, Clarion, Socorro, San Benedicte, Carmen, George, and Angel Guardia, off Lower California. The paper consists of thirteen separate lists, representing as many distinct localities at which collections were made, with a record of the specimens taken, but generally no further remarks as to whether the species were common or otherwise. The following are described as new: (1) *Speotyto rostrata*, (2) *Zenaidura clarionensis*, (3) *Troglodytes tanneri*, (4) *Puffinus auricularis*, all from Clarion Island, off Lower California; (5) *Oceanodroma socorroensis*, from Socorro Island; (6) *Amphispiza belli cinerea*, from Ballenas Bay, Lower California; (7) *Otocoris alpestris pallida*, from near the mouth of the Colorado River, Sonora; (8) *Melospiza fasciata graminea*, from Santa Barbara Island; (9) *Helminthophila celata sordida*; (10) *Melospiza fasciata clementæ*, and (11) *Otocoris alpestris insularis*, from San Clemente Island.

A single specimen of *Halocyptena microsoma* Coues was taken in Panama Bay, March, 1888, forming the second known specimen of the species. — J. A. A.

**Palmer on Birds observed during the Cruise of the 'Grampus.'**† — The U. S. Fish Commission schooner 'Grampus,' on her summer cruise in 1887, visited the Magdalen Islands and Bird Rocks in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Funk and Penguin Islands, the Mingan Islands, and

\* Birds from the Coasts of Western North America and adjacent Islands, collected in 1888-89, with Descriptions of New Species. By Chas. H. Townsend. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XIII. 1890. pp. 131-142.

† Notes on the Birds observed during the Cruise of the United States Fish Commission Schooner Grampus in the Summer of 1887. By William Palmer. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XIII. 1890. pp. 249-265.